

Detached Youth Work Project
by Ruth Blakey and Darren McMahon

M: 07858448694
E: info@starsyc.org

www.facebook.com/starsyouthproject



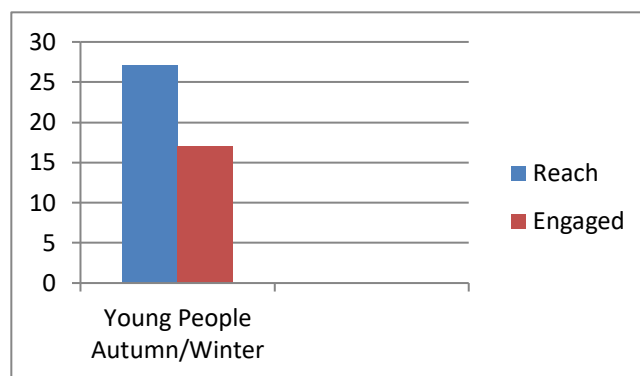
Autumn/Winter 2017 Report

Annfield Plain / Catchgate

During the winter months Stars Youth Workers have been supporting the Annfield Plain Youth Café, this has proved a successful partnership during giving the detached project a warm building to fall back to while working in partnership supporting young people who access the sessions at the community centre. A joint ice skating trip to the Centre for Life took place on 16th December and was a huge success.

Young people have been taking part in sessions promoting positive activities, body-image and well-being. A dementia awareness course is to take place in the new year.

The group took part Durham Constabulary's public order training acting as rioters during the training exercise and then were shown techniques used by Police Officers during civil unrest situations



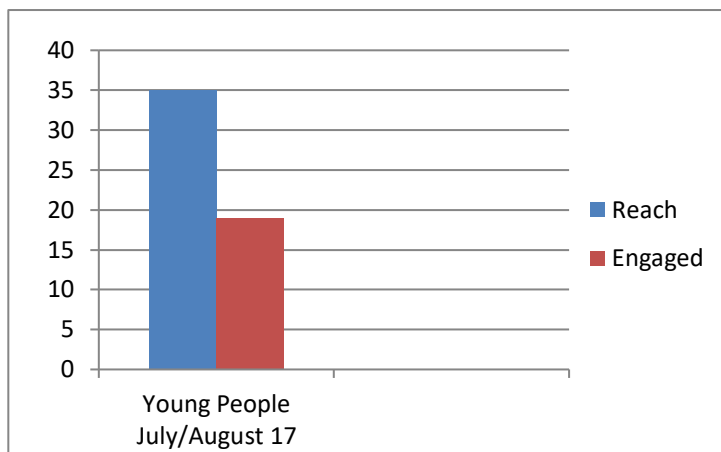
South Moor, Craghead and South Stanley and Stanley Hall Wards

From 21st September the St Stephens Centre Thursday's 6.30pm- 8.30pm open access session has been resurrected as per the request of the young people, public and local councillors. The youth work team have worked hard to promote this session for young people 11-19 years. The youth work team felt they would be able to accommodate this wide age range due to the flexibility of St Stephens Centre.

The group attended Christmas Fair at St Stephens and provided 'pin the nose' games and made Sweet Cones to sell at the fair, which the remainder were donated to PACT HOUSE for the kids party night. Our Christmas celebrations have involved, other Christmas crafts, decorating reverse Advent Calendar Boxes for food parcel appeals, Christmas party night and trip Ice Staking at the Centre for Life.

Outreach in the South Moor Park area has continued with additional volunteer weekend sessions when workers are available in an effort to engage with young people using alcohol and smashing glass in the park area. It's been difficult to gauge the success of these sessions as the area is secluded and is a constant draw for young people looking for a hideaway and Stars does not have the resources to maintain a weekly weekend presence in that area.

Stars are currently recruiting young people to work with the Wear Rivers Trust on environmental improvements to South Moor Park during early 2018, promoting the work taking place in the park to community groups and in local schools.



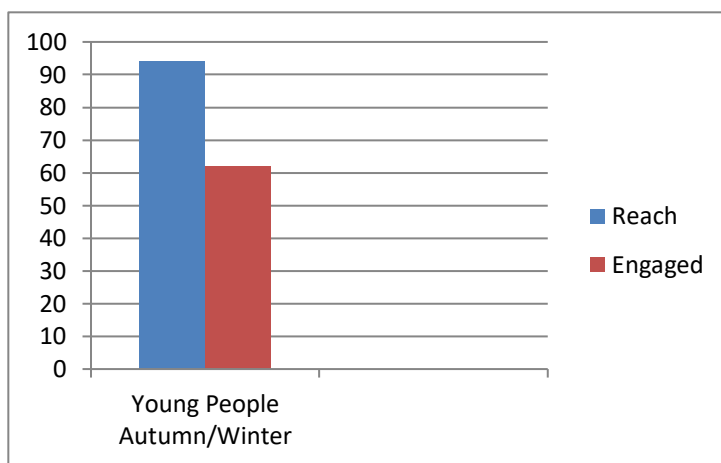
Stanley, Tanfield and Havannah Wards

Feedback from Stanley Town Councillors led to detached sessions around the Tanfield School and within View Lane Park, the numbers of young people were relatively low in these areas. Issues of anti-social behaviour were raised with young people, making them aware of how they can access the Stars youth project and the sorts of things they could become involved with and enjoy, signposting to other youth activity providers.

PACTivate continues to be a success with youth anti-social behaviour being reduced by 25% in the town centre. The session consists of a 1 hour gym session followed 1 hours sport halls based activity at the Louisa Centre and 2 hours social time at PACT House.

PACTivate are also looking to extend within the session for young people to engage in issue based activities to build awareness and understanding on personal and social issues, how they feel about their local community and national campaigns.

Young people as part of the giving back project have hosted Sunday Brunch Sessions with residents over 50 years old, providing company and refreshments to local residents on Sunday Mornings.



Young people also took part Durham Constabulary's public order training acting as rioters during the training exercise and then were shown techniques used by Police Officers during civil unrest situations.

Summary

As expected over the winter month numbers have decreased to 156 young people accessing the project, this number still represents a significant amount of young people accessing youth work advice and guidance. Stars have a great base of young people in the Stanley area, who regularly access the project, as we step into 2018 we expect the project to grow and move forward.

Stanley Town Council by funding Stars has provided a youth service local young people want to access, on their terms and to their requirement and needs.

Leanne Selwood, Trainee Youth Worker, "I just love being able to work with kids and having the opportunity to train to be a youth worker"

Sgt. Dave Clark "Stars and PACTivate has reduced anti-social behaviour by 25% in the town centre"

Lukas, young person "Chat and Chill is my time, I get to talk about how I feel and people actually listen to me"

Additional Youth Work

Level 2 Youth Work Course

18 candidates will begin the course in January 2018. Stars has supported a significant number of young people on to this course and will be offering practical youth work experience and face to face hours to students over the length of the course

Freedom ZONE LGBT Drop in Night

Stars have been supporting this drop in club for under 25s by providing advice, guidance and youth work support. The club has a number of teenage transgender clients who have little local support and as such the Freedom ZONE is a much needed local resource for these young people.

MHAD

Stars are working with a local young man who has been funded by Comic Relief via Investing in Children to set up activity sessions to help young people combat mental health issues. The steering group of young people is now set up and operates Thursdays from 5pm at PACT House.

Chat and Chill Session

Chat and chill sessions has provided young people with the space and time to have time out of their busy and complex lives. Young people from Chat and Chill and Freedom Zone worked together to decorate PACT HOUSE and hold Halloween night for local residents.

Members have been able to identify triggers for their negative behaviours and have worked with Youth Workers to build confidence and self-esteem choosing alternative ways of dealing with situations. Members have embraced other opportunities to build friendships and professional relationships with Youth Workers to re-focus on their achievements.

Outreach Chat and Chill sessions have been offered to other local organisations, youth / sports clubs that also engage with young people.

Arts and Farts Group

This will be a new group starting late January 2018 Thursdays 4.15pm -6.15pm. This group is aimed at 14 plus young people. Arts and Craft focused for young people who are maybe isolated or need a space to develop via creative and art based activities. This group proposes to be able to showcase the work that young people create through exhibitions and other community events.

